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TITLE : COLLAGENASE INHIBITOR

ABSTRACT : PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To obtain the subject collagenase inhibitor that has excellent skin-aging inhibition and skin-improving action with high safety by formulating a specific plant extract thereto.

SOLUTION: The objective inhibiting agent is obtained by formulating an extracts of thyme (*Thymus vulgaris* L.) and of creeping thyme (*Thymus serpyllum* L.), preferably in an amount of 0.001-10.0 wt.% as a dry basis. These extracts are obtained by soaking the whole body of the plants in an extraction solvent (preferably methanol) or by extracting under reflux with heat, then filtering followed by concentration of the filtrate. This inhibitor may be combined, when necessary, with a whitening agent, a moisturizer, an antioxidant, an oily component, an ultraviolet absorber, colorants, aqueous components, water, a variety of skin nutrients. This inhibitor is prepared into conventional external preparations for skin as an ointment, cream, milk, lotion, pack, bath medicine and the like.

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